

15 depositing a curable adhesive on at least one of said inboard
16 and outboard surfaces such that said curable adhesive is between said
17 overlay and said wheel upon assembling said overlay with said wheel; and
18 temporarily securing said overlay to said outboard surface of
19 said wheel with said securing and positioning means so as to positively
20 position said overlay centrally relative to said [outboard surface] rim
21 portion of said wheel and so as to form said at least one gap therebetween,
22 said curable adhesive filling at least a portion of said at least one gap,
23 said securing and positioning means securing and positioning said overlay
24 for a duration sufficient for said curable adhesive to permanently cure and
25 thereby permanently secure said overlay to said wheel.

Claim 2, line 3, after "said" insert ---- at least one ----.

Claim 3, line 3, after "said" insert ---- at least one ----.

Claim 8, line 1, after "securing" insert ---- and positioning

Claim 8, line 2, after "securing" insert ---- and positioning

1 32. (Amended) A wheel and overlay assembly comprising:
2 a disk portion and a rim portion circumscribing said disk
3 portion, said disk and rim portions defining an outboard surface of said
4 wheel;
5 an overlay [secured to] juxtaposed said outboard surface of
6 said wheel, said overlay having an inboard surface complementary to and
7 facing said outboard surface of said wheel;
8 means [between] ^{attached to} ~~interposed~~ said inboard surface of said
9 overlay and ^{engaging} said outboard surface of said wheel for temporarily securing
10 [said overlay to said outboard surface of said wheel] and for positively
11 positioning said overlay on said outboard surface of said wheel, said
12 securing and positioning means being attached to said inboard surface prior
13 to securing and positioning said overlay on said wheel and causing said

02
14 overlay to be [spaced apart] centrally located with respect to said rim
15 portion of said wheel and spaced from said outboard surface of said wheel so
16 as to define [a] at least one gap therebetween when said overlay is mounted
17 on said wheel; and
18 [an] a permanent adhesive disposed in said at least one gap
19 [and] for permanently securing said overlay to said wheel.

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Claim 33, line 1, after "wheel" insert ---- and overlay assembly
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03
1 34. (Amended) The wheel and overlay assembly of Claim 32 wherein
2 said securing and positioning [2eans] means comprises a hot melt adhesive.

Claim 35, line 1, after "wheel" insert ---- and overlay assembly
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Claim 36, line 1, after "wheel" insert ---- and overlay assembly
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Claim 37, line 1, after "wheel" insert ---- and overlay assembly
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04
1 38. (Amended) An automobile wheel and overlay assembly
2 comprising:
3 a disk portion and a rim portion circumscribing said disk
4 portion, said disk and rim portions defining an outboard surface of said
5 wheel;
6 a wheel bead seat formed on said rim portion, said wheel bead
7 seat forming a peripheral surface feature on said outboard surface of said
8 wheel;
9 an overlay [secured to] juxtaposed said outboard surface of
10 said wheel, said overlay having an inboard surface complementary to and
11 facing said outboard surface of said wheel;
12 a plurality of projections attached to and extending from
13 said inboard surface of said overlay, each of said plurality of projections
14 resiliently engaging said peripheral surface feature so as to secure said

33

15 overlay to said wheel and positively position said overlay on said outboard
16 surface of said wheel, said plurality of projections causing said [inboard
17 surface of said] overlay to be [spaced apart] centrally located with respect
18 to said rim portion of said wheel and spaced from said outboard surface of
19 said wheel so as to define [a] at least one gap therebetween; and

20 an adhesive disposed in said at least one gap for permanently
21 securing said overlay to said wheel.

1 39. (Amended) An overlay for a wheel and overlay assembly having
2 an outer surface, ^{a rim portion} and an axis, said overlay comprising:

3 an ornamental panel member having a substantially uniform
4 thickness; a first surface; and an oppositely disposed second surface;

5 a decorative layer adhered to said first surface of said
6 ornamental panel member; [and]
7 ^{attached to} ~~means interposed~~ means said second surface of said ornamental panel
8 ^{engaging} ~~member and said outer~~ member and said outer surface of said wheel for temporarily securing and
9 positioning said ornamental panel member on said wheel, said securing and
10 positioning means being attached to said second surface of said ornamental
11 panel member and causing said ornamental panel member to be centrally
12 mounted with respect to said rim portion of said wheel and spaced from said
13 outboard surface of said wheel so as to define at least one gap
14 therebetween; and

15 [an] adhesive means selectively positioned between said
16 second surface of said ornamental panel member and said outer surface of
17 said wheel, said adhesive means permanently attaching said overlay directly
18 to said outer surface of said wheel;

19 whereby said decorative layer of said first surface
20 substantially covers said outer surface of said wheel.

1 40. (Amended) In a composite vehicle wheel having a wheel with a
2 web portion and a rim portion ^{circumscribing} said web portion, said web
3 portion defining an outboard surface of said composite vehicle wheel, an

34

4 ornamental panel member attached to said outboard surface of said web
5 portion, said ornamental panel member having a first surface and an
6 oppositely disposed second surface:

7 [an] adhesive means selectively positioned between said
8 ornamental panel member and said outboard surface of said wheel, said
9 adhesive means temporarily and permanently attaching said overlay directly
10 to said outboard surface of said wheel;

11 a decorative layer adhered to said first surface of said
12 ornamental panel member; [and]

13 said ornamental panel member being a thin panel of
14 substantially uniform thickness; and

15 means for temporarily and permanently securing and
16 positioning said ornamental panel member on said wheel, said securing and
17 positioning means interposed said ornamental panel member and said outboard
18 surface and causing said ornamental panel member to be centrally mounted
19 with respect to said rim portion of said wheel and spaced from said outboard
20 surface of said wheel so as to define at least one gap therebetween;

21 whereby when said ornamental panel member is directly
22 attached to said outboard surface of said wheel by said adhesive means said
23 decorative layer of said first surface substantially covers said outboard
24 surface of said wheel.

Remarks

The Office Action of September 26, 1995, Paper No. 3, was carefully reviewed and to highlight the distinctions between Applicant's invention and the prior art of record, the claims were amended as set for herein. Claims 1 through 3 and 32 through 40 were amended to more clearly define the subject matter of the invention and to place all the claims remaining in the application in condition for allowance. Claims 1 through 40 remain in the application.

In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 32 through 38 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being